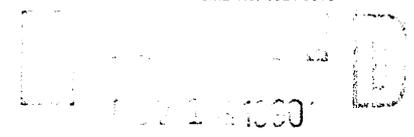


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Quimby, Dr. Samuel, House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number North Road

not for publication

city, town Mount Vernon

vicinity

state Maine

code ME

county Kennebec

code 011

zip code 04352

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*Eric S. Thibault*  
Signature of certifying official  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

11/5/90  
Date

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

*Alfred Byer*

12/18/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Situated in a rural setting in which it is surrounded by fields and wooded areas, the Quimby house is a two-story Federal period dwelling with unusual detailing. The double-pile frame structure rests on a new concrete foundation and it is covered by a gable roof. Its present location is at a point some seventy-five feet back from the original site.

The symmetrically composed five-bay front (south) elevation is composed of an elaborate doorway and second story Palladian window in the center bay flanked by twelve-over-twelve double-hung windows. The unusual entrance features a six-panel door that is framed by an elliptical transom containing three round panes. The flanking sidelights have paneled lower sections containing diamond-shaped moldings. A pair of thin columns support narrow projections of the cornice which is decorated with a stylized reeded dentil string. The composition is further articulated with applied fan-shaped moldings positioned at forty-five degree angles from the columns and cornice. The embellishment of the doorway is exceeded by the treatment of the Palladian window. Here, the twelve-over-twelve central window is separated from the narrow sidelights by wide fluted pilasters. Similar pilasters frame the sidelights. They rise to an entablature that features a cornice decorated with simple scroll moldings and a frieze with an applied pointed arch molding. The pilaster capitals feature very simply detailed projections that imitate acanthus leaves. Above the entablature on either side of the round arched projection of the window are panels with two raised, tube-shaped moldings. The balance of the elevation consists of the eight double-hung windows with mitered surrounds; paneled corner pilasters whose base repeats the diamond pattern of the doorway and whose capitals mimic the pilasters of the Palladian window; and a frieze featuring a row of oblong-shaped moldings. A newly constructed brick chimney punctuates the roof just forward of the ridge. This roof is a 1950s replacement of what is believed to originally have been a shallow hip. Tradition recounts that a cyclone destroyed the original roof, a portion of which is said to survive in a nearby field. The central chimney was an original feature as can be seen by the placement of interior fireplaces.

The gable ends of the house are divided into four equal bays with twelve-over-twelve windows in each opening. A decorative cornice, whose detailing matches the Palladian window, carries across both sides. (The elaborateness of this detailing when compared to that of the facade suggests that the latter part may have been altered when the roof was replaced.) The

 See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

---

gable peak has a single six-over-six window. There are four unequally spaced windows at the rear.

On the interior, the house is arranged in a fashion typical of the mid-Federal period in Maine. A small entrance hall contains the steep, curving stair, and doors open into the two front rooms. These three spaces are remarkably intact, and feature a variety of decorative finishes. The stair has a modest newel post, slat balusters, and scalloped ornamentation applied to the outer string. It follows a tight curve that is repeated by the wall behind. The parlor (southwest room) has projecting corner posts that have applied reeding through their full height. The mantelpiece utilizes some of the same decorative devices as seen on the exterior including the diamond panels, reeded pilasters, and stylized dentil string. The opposing room is more modestly detailed. Its mantel has a frieze whose ends curve inward before they meet the shelf. The projecting corner posts are covered with unornamented boards. A large room with much smaller ones at each end occupy the rear half of the house. As a result of two fires these rooms have new finishes and configurations. Similarly, the second floor space above is largely new although the framing is original. However, the two front rooms and the stair landing are original in both configuration and simple Federal trim.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

c. 1800  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

c. 1800  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Constructed about 1800 by a talented, but as yet unidentified builder, the Dr. Samuel Quimby House is a two-story frame Federal period dwelling with unusual detailing. This elaborate decorative finish, which at times approaches the level of folk-art, sets this house apart from its rural peers. It is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion C for its architectural distinction. Criteria consideration B also applies by virtue of the fact that the building has been moved slightly from its original site.

In its overall configuration the Quimby house is typical of mid-Federal period architecture in Maine. Its symmetrical five-bay composition with a central entrance and chimney, double-pile arrangement of the rooms, and weatherboard sheathing could be from any area of the State -rural or urban- that was settled at this time. However, the decorative embellishment of this particular example, especially evident on the exterior, but also visible inside, clearly separates this house from its contemporaries. In fact, it is among the earliest extant rural Federal houses in Maine that displays such a wealth of detail.

The vast majority of existing rural houses erected in the Federal period point to a tradition of modest exterior detailing (Deacon Livermore House, Livermore, N.R. 2/24/75; McWain Hall House, Waterford Vicinity, N.R. 3/25/87; Peabody-Fitch Farm, South Bridgton, N.R. 4/7/89). In contrast, the state's most refined Federal houses are generally found in urban or town settings. It is among this class of buildings that the combination of central entrance/Palladian window and highly decorative cornices appear (McLellan-Sweat Mansion, Portland, N.R. 3/5/70; Nickels-Sortwell House, Wiscasset, N.R. 1/12/73; Ruggles House, Columbia Falls, N.R. 1/27/70). Thus, despite the fact that the combination of details in the Quimby house often reflect a naive non-classical vocabulary, they create a distinctive appearance that is a tribute to the builder.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Kingsbury, Henry D. and Deyo, Simeon L., ed. Illustrated History of Kennebec County, Maine, 1799-1892. New York: H. W. Blake & Co. 1892.

Mount Vernon Cemeteries. No author. 1944. Typescript copy at Maine State Library, Augusta, Maine.

Mount Vernon Town Records. Microfilm copy at Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 1 acre

**UTM References**

A 

1	9	4	2	5	2	9	0	4	9	1	9	8	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property occupies the Town of Mount Vernon tax map R-11, lot 24.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary embraces the remaining parcel of land historically and currently associated with this house.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian  
 organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date 10/1990  
 street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132  
 city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

---

Although the precise construction history of the house is not known, tradition holds that it was erected about 1800 by a patient of Dr. Samuel Quimby (1770-1851), the original occupant. On April 29, 1797, Quimby acquired the 100 acre tract of land upon which the house was subsequently built. Mount Vernon tax records, while they are unfortunately of no value in indicating when the house was erected, do show that Quimby had settled in town about 1793-94. Cited in all sources as the community's first physician, he is also known to have owned saw and grist mills at various times. He and his wife Lydia occupied the property, which grew to include over 200 acres, until 1836 when they sold the house to Randall and Tamson Currier. It remained in the Currier and then the Clough families up to 1986 when the present owner acquired and rehabilitated it.

By 1986 the Quimby house had fallen upon hard times. In fact, photographs taken of it in 1970 show a building which was already in decline. In the intervening years all of its twelve-over-twelve sash had been removed, the rear half of the house had been substantially damaged by fire, and the rear wall was near collapse. In 1950 a cyclone destroyed what is believed to have been originally a hip roof, at which time the gable form was installed. Although it was moved back from the road, the house continues to occupy the immediate property on which it is historically associated. Furthermore, the remarkable survival of the most significant exterior and interior features coupled with the sensitive rehabilitation more than compensate for what loss of original material integrity has occurred.